

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph 36 on pages 9 and 10 as follows:

[0036] Manufacturing process 100 for the needle and hub assembly 14 begins at S102. Before the actual molding process begins, the user would prepare the equipment and provide appropriate mold parts for the components. The process continues at S104. At S104, the user injects heated fluid plastic material into a mold component having a cavity that defines the shape of the first molded hub portion 42. The fluid plastic cools within the mold cavity to become the first molded hub portion 42, as shown in FIGURE 5A. The hub portion 42 is then ejected from the mold. The process 100 continues at S106. At S106, a needle 46 is placed in the channel 58 in the first molded hub portion 42, as shown in FIGURE 5B until the needle 46 contacts stop 58a. Once the needle 46 is placed in the channel 58, process 100 continues with S108, in which an extruded metal skirt 40 is placed over the exterior of the first molded hub portion ~~44~~ 42. Once the skirt 40 and needle 46 are in place, the assembly, which is shown in FIGURE 5C, is removed from the first mold and placed in the second mold. Cavities in the second mold define the shape of the second molded hub portion. Once the assembly is in place, process 100 continues with S110, in which the second molded hub portion is overmolded onto the assembly, forming the completed needle and hub assembly 14 shown in perspective in FIGURE 5D. As discussed above, during the molding of the hub portion 44, a portion of the surface area of the hub portion 42 is remelted to form a melt zone 64 such that the portions 42 and 44 are fused together to form a single piece. The process 100 ends at S112 and may be repeated as many times as desired.

Please amend paragraph 37 on page 10 as follows:

[0037] When the second molded hub portion 44 is overmolded in S110 of process 100, the second molded hub portion 44 fuses with the first molded hub portion 42 along melt zone 45 64 as it cools, forming an integral, fused component. For this reason, it is typically advantageous to mold the first and second molded hub portions 42, 44 of the same material so that they can fuse together effectively. However, any two thermally compatible materials may be used for the first and second molded hub portions 42, 44.